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Abolition of sales-tax on handloom goods.

* 690 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Union Government have sent any directive to the State Government that the sales-tax on handloom goods be abolished ;

(*b*) if so, the contents of the directive ;

(*c*) the amount of sales-tax collected by the State Government during the years 1950–52 ; and

(*d*) the schemes of the State Government to help weavers seeking State aid?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes. On the recommendation of the All-India Handloom Board, the Government of India requested this Government to abolish all tax on yarn and handloom cloth.

" (*c*) The revenue realized by way of tax on handloom cloth in the three years ending 31st March 1953 is given below :—

	RS.
1950–51	17,32,762
1951–52	15,63,079
1952–53	15,56,081

" (*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 319 put by Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, M.L.A., on 23rd March 1954."

Maintenance of the Villupuram-Gingee road by the Government.

* 691 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to take charge of the maintenance of the road from Villupuram to Gingee in South Arcot district from the South Arcot District Board ; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) There is no such proposal at present.

" (*b*) Will be considered on merits when the financial position permits it."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" In view of the heavy traffic on this road, will the Government consider the question of immediately taking over this road? If a census were to be taken either at once or some time afterwards within two or three months, it will clearly prove and convince the Government that it is very necessary to take up this road."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" More important roads than that have been

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included in the list. The hon. Member has to wait for better times to come when the Government will be in a position to take it over."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" Inasmuch as all the District Boards are working at a deficit, will the Government consider the desirability of taking over all the major district board roads and placing them under the control of the Highways Department? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is the intention of the Government to take over all the major roads. We are in the process of taking them over. Some of them have already been taken over. Gradually we will take over the rest of them."

Legislation for encouraging free transfer of lands.

* 692 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government contemplate early legislation for encouraging free transfer of lands on the lines of similar legislation in other States ; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The member presumably refers to the legislation to be undertaken by the Government in connexion with the Bhoodan Yagna Movement initiated by Sri Acharya Vinobha Bhave. The matter is under consideration of the Government."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" As the Bhoodan movement has made considerable headway in the State, should not legislation be expedited to give a proper direction and concrete shape to the movement? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have already said that the matter is under consideration. The Government also contemplate introducing a Bill on the lines of the Uttar-Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Acts."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In all matters relating to important legislation this State was giving a lead to the other States in the country. That being the case, may I know why this State should wait for the decision of other States? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It is not a question of waiting for the decision of other States. We are also actively trying to introduce a Bill. If there is some delay, we cannot help it."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இதுவரையிலும் பூதான யக்ஞத்திற்கு எத்தனை ஆயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் கிடைத்திருக்கிறதென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வார்களா? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A separate question may be put."